

Chapter Eight Acuity

The Purpose of Acuity

The purpose of *Acuity* assessments is to provide diagnostic measures for grade 3-8 students in English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, as well as students enrolled in Algebra I and English 10. Assessment reports provide standards-aligned performance data, which support an educator's ability to inform instruction at the student-, class-, school-, and corporation-level. There are multiple types of assessments, which can be assigned on- or off-grade level, available in the online *Acuity* assessment system, including Predictive, Diagnostic, and Curriculum Map-Aligned. Additionally, there are multiple learning activities, such as student report data reviews, item reviews and distractor analyses, ELA and math instructional resources, custom test builder assessments, and performance tasks which can be used to help guide future instruction, improve student achievement, and support the formative assessment process.

Structure and Content of Acuity for 2013-2014

Testing personnel should note the following regarding the administration of the 2013-2014 *Acuity* Assessments:

1. *Acuity* assesses four content areas in grades 3-8: English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
2. *Acuity* Algebra I and English 10 predictive assessments are also available.
3. Three types of formative assessments may be administered in grades 3-8: Predictive, Diagnostic, and Curriculum-Mapped Aligned (CM-A) assessments.
 - Predictive assessments are designed to mirror the ISTEP+ blueprint. With each assessment window, more content from the current grade level is assessed. Predictive assessments are administered three times per year for English/language arts and mathematics (grades 3-8); predictive assessments are administered two times per year for science and social studies at the ISTEP+ tested grade levels.
 - Diagnostic assessments are structured to divide the curriculum into sections over the course of a year. For example, diagnostic assessments are administered four times per school year with different on-grade-level indicators assessed during each window for English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in grades 3-8.
 - Curriculum Map – Aligned diagnostic assessments are structured to divide the English/language arts and mathematics curriculum into sections over the course of a year following the curriculum maps created by IDOE. The CM-A diagnostic assessments are also administered four times per school year with different on-grade-level indicators assessed during each window.
4. *Acuity* Algebra I and English 10 assessments are predictive in nature, designed to mirror the ECAs, and are administered three times per year.

Testing Accommodations

The approved ISTEP+ accommodations outlined in *Appendix C* apply to *Acuity*. The provision of these testing accommodations may be administered by classroom teachers in addition to program area staff

(i.e., EL teacher). The Acuity test items that assess reading comprehension – and are, therefore, not to be read aloud to students – are addressed in a separate guidance document:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/acuity-assessment-accommodations-guidance.pdf>.

Application Process

The application process for schools to utilize the diagnostic tools takes place annually during the months of March through May. The steps to complete this process include submission of the application, signoff by the corporation superintendent, and final verification of application information by the corporation.

Acuity Assessment Windows for 2013-2014

Window	Dates	Administration Type
Grades 3-8 Diagnostic	D1: September 18 – October 30, 2013 D2: December 9, 2013 – February 12, 2014 D3: February 20 – April 11, 2014 D4: April 17 – May 29, 2014	Online or Paper-and-Pencil
Grades 3-8 Predictive	A ELA/Math: September 23 – October 4, 2013 B ELA/Math: November 25 – December 13, 2013 C ELA/Math: February 6 – 28, 2014 B SS/SCI: December 4 – 17, 2013 C SS/SCI: February 3 – 28, 2014	Online or Paper-and-Pencil
Algebra I and English 10 Predictive	A: November 4 – 18, 2013 B: January 27 – February 21, 2014 C: March 24 – April 11, 2014	Online or Paper-and-Pencil

Notes:

- 90% completion is required by approved schools in each assessment window.
- Testing outside any window requires IDOE approval. Please contact the Office of Student Assessment for guidance: istep@doe.in.gov
- For additional information, please access <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/acuity-grades-3-8-algebra-i-english-10>.